

USAF Scientific Advisory Board

Task Force on the Threat of Asymmetric Attack

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BACKGROUND

Concerns about the asymmetric threat to our nation are no longer theoretical and are much more urgent since the incidents of 11 September 2001. There is every reason to believe that there will be other attacks in the future. It is important to bring some independent perspective to bear on what the future may hold to help the leadership of the Air Force and the nation to prepare.

The Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force have asked the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board to create a standing Task Force on the Threat of Asymmetric Attack. The Task Force will be convened to provide top level advice and insight on specific taskings from the Secretary and the Chief, and not to do in-depth study or analysis.

PRODUCTS

Informal briefings/discussions to/with the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force. The briefing on the first tasking described below will be done by December 2001.

FIRST TASKING

The Task Force will identify and discuss possible threats of asymmetric attacks against the nation, generally focusing on those which will include or ultimately will involve the Air Force, but not excluding anything that the leaders of the Air Force can bring to the attention of the nation.

This work is intended to be a brief, focused, top-level look at this problem by a small number of people rather than an extensive or in-depth analysis. The Task Force will concentrate on a descriptive analysis of possibilities rather than on solutions. It is understood that the work will not be comprehensive, but developing a few key ideas and insights is the goal.